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Suspectfraud.com Helps Consumers “Check with the State Before It’s Too Late”

OLYMPIA, March 2, 2012 – Are you wondering how that contractor managed to underbid his competition by so much? Maybe it’s because he doesn’t pay his taxes, does shoddy work or will take your money and run.

Protect your pocketbook by going to suspectfraud.com to see if a business is registered and in good standing before you sign on the dotted line.

Links on suspectfraud.com allow consumers to check to see if a registered business is properly licensed, owes the state taxes, has had complaints filed against it, or is the subject of state enforcement actions.

The site was developed in partnership with the departments of Revenue, Labor & Industries, and Employment Security to cut down on an underground economy of businesses that don’t like to play by the rules and to pursue individuals that evade paying their fair share of taxes.

The three agencies will launch advertising to promote the web site in connection with National Consumer Protection Week beginning March 4.

Concerned citizens also can use suspectfraud.com to notify the agencies about possible tax evasion or other types of fraud, such as illegally claiming unemployment benefits, billing the state for medical services that weren’t delivered, or evading state taxes on boats, planes and vehicles.

The Department of Revenue alone uncovered more than a thousand unregistered businesses during the past fiscal year due in part to tips it received, generating nearly \$69 million in taxes, penalties and interest. It also is pursuing several criminal investigations based on tips.

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